Hello Fellow Stargazers,
Welcome to the New Year! It’s a time for reflections and new hopes and dreams.

We had a wonderful turnout for the FOTO Holiday Dinner. We had over 50 members attend, including some of the COC Board members. We checked out the newest addition to our telescope collection, a beautiful, vintage 1882 Clark Telescope. This is an important telescope to our museum collection as it the same model as the one broken years ago by the janitor. (If you don’t know this story, come to one of the second and fourth Sunday history tours to hear this and other great stories).

It was a little sad seeing our bundled up Merz and Mahler telescope, but the repairs to the building and new skin for the dome are sorely needed. Fingers crossed, all will be done in time to see the lunar eclipse on January 20. Observatory doors will open at 10pm that night.

Hoping for nothing but clear skies in the New Year, thanks for all you do for the Observatory!

Chairman – Valerie Niemi
Vice-Chairman – Aaron Eiben
Secretary – Dr. Michelle Gainey
Treasurer – Dr. Al Scheide
COC Representative – Chuck Fairbanks, Frank Huss, and Dr. Al Scheide.
Cosmic Kids
By Samantha Pepper

Explore the cosmos during our new multi-disciplinary classes which helps grades K-7th learn and discover topics in astronomy and investigate the wonders beyond our world. These classes are open to members and non-members. You may decide to take one class or the entire class series. You may also decide to stay with your child for the class or drop them off and pick them up after, parents will not be charged as participants.

Sat. January 19: Eclipses (just in time for the Lunar Eclipse on Jan 20)
Sat. February 16: The Solar System
Sat. March 16: Mars
Sat. April 20: Rockets

Grades K-3 meet from 9-10am
Grades 4-7 meet from 11am-noon

Member prices:
$3.00/participant/class OR
$10.00/participant/series
Non-member prices:
$10.00/participant/class OR
$30.00/participant/series

Space is extremely limited. Call 513-321-5186 to register or Sign Up Online.

Lifelong Learning

Enrich your life with UC Continuing Education’s exciting array of noncredit short, yet in-depth, courses and educational opportunities designed for diverse audiences of all ages.

Behind the Scenes at the Observatory
Wed. Feb. 13th 7-9pm
$35 per person

Stargazing 101
Wed. Feb. 27th 7-9pm
$35 per person

Tour of the Universe
Wed. Mar. 6th 7-9pm
$35 per person

To register call 513-556-6932 or select your course(s) online and click Register.

Astro Topics with Dean Regas

Winter Sky
Tues. Jan. 8 or 15th 7p

Prepare for the SuperMoon
Tues. Feb. 12th 7p

Astrology Not Astronomy
Tues. Mar. 5th 7pm

These fun and laid-back single topic classes for beginners focus on a variety of topics and will surely keep you looking up!

$15 per person $12 for members. Sign Up Online or call 513-321-5186.

Introduction to Astronomy with Dean Regas

Tuesdays Jan. 9, 16 & 23. 7-9p

This 3-night (once a week) introductory astronomy course is perfect for beginners who want to know more about observing the night sky.

Led by astronomer and co-host of PBS’ Star Gazer, Dean Regas, this course will show you the stars. You will learn how to identify stars, constellations, and planets as well as viewing tips for the Moon.

Each night includes viewing through the historic telescopes (weather permitting).

50 per person for the series.
$40 for Observatory members.

Space is limited. Sign Up Online or call 513-321-5186 to register.
Astronomy Nights

Thursday Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Friday Jan. 4, 11, 18
7:00pm-8:30pm

Free for Members!

While renovation work continues on the Mitchel Building Astro Evenings will feature the 1904 Alvan Clark Telescope.

In awe with the beauty of the night sky? Have questions about the Universe? This is where you can get the answers.

Astronomy Evenings include ever-changing short presentations on a wide variety of topics and plenty of time for your astro-questions. Tour this National Historic Landmark. And if clear, view the Moon, planets and deep space treasures through the historic 1904 telescope. (Program is held rain or shine)

The topics and the night sky change week-to-week/month-to-month so you can visit often to hear and see something new.

Free for Members!
For the latest schedule visit the web calendar and sign up online.

Radio Astronomy!

Looking Up brings you the latest astronomical discoveries in a really fun, quick-paced conversation. We cover out-of-this-world topics about planets, stars, and the universe, science and technology, throw in a little pop-culture and bring it all down to Earth.

Looking Up releases new episodes twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Subscribe on iTunes or Stitcher.

Radio Astronomy!

On Friday, November 9th, the OH – KY – IN Amateur Radio Society set up a “Special Event’ amateur radio station in the lobby area of the Herget building.

This was done to celebrate the Observatory’s 175th anniversary. The activity was led by Cesi DiBeneditto, KD8OOB. The station was in operation from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Contacts were made in 8 different states, LA, ID, NM, OH, OK, FL, MT, and TX.

December Meeting Highlights

By Michelle Lierl Gainey, FOTO secretary.

Instead of the regular Second Monday FOTO Meeting, the Members Appreciation Dinner was held on Saturday December 8. The dinner, catered by Venice on Vine, was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The main Observatory building was beautifully decorated and holiday music filled the air. After dinner, we went over to the Mitchel Building to see our poor, bubble-wrapped Mitchel telescope and all the scaffolding around it.

We also got to see our “new” 1882 Clark telescope before heading home.
Under Construction

The Mitchel Observatory ca 1904.

The Mitchel Observatory is undergoing some extensive repair and rehabilitation. The 20+ year old flat roof has reached the end of its service life and the dome has had its share of annoying leaks for a while. Repairs will also include gutters and some masonry work to make sure the building is weather-tight.

The office and classroom will still be available, but our Merz & Mahler telescope won’t be seeing starlight until mid-January. In the meantime we’ll feature the 1904 Clark Telescope for programs and viewing.

Our thanks to the University of Cincinnati for all they do to maintain this National Historic Landmark and support our mission.

Historical Notes

By John Ventre, COC Historian

Longworth’s Request to Remove the Observatory from Mt. Adams.

At the April 19, 1845, Board of Control Meeting the Directors of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society recorded the following notice.

The session was spent in an informal discussion of the offer by Mr. Longworth, in the public papers, of inducement to the Society to remove their Observatory from Mount Adams and other subjects; upon which no order was taken. (Editor’s note: this meeting occurred just five days after the Society’s new telescope saw its first star light on Mt. Adams.) It appearing to the Board to be necessary to obtain further information in order to consider them to adopt a suitable course of action, it was resolved to adjourn to Monday evening next, and in the meantime to make such inquiries as might enable them to obtain necessary information.

At the April 21, 1845, Board of Control Meeting the Directors of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society recorded the following motion.

The discussion of the last meeting was then resumed, and on motion, is was Resolved that Mr. Perkins be a committee to call on Mr. Longworth and ascertain when it will be convenient for him to execute a deed conveying to the Society the Observatory lot, in conformity with his title bond; and that said, the committee be authorized to assure Mr. Longworth that neither the Society nor the Board of Control have had any agency in getting into any of the anonymous publications concerning the Observatory or its affairs – that they are ignorant of the sources from whence they came – that they have neither authorized nor countenanced them, and that they are therefore not responsible for anything they contain.

Principal Source: Minutes of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, Board of Control, April 19 and 21, 1845.

The Observatory by Day

The Cincinnati Observatory is hosting weekday tours of our National Historic Landmark. The tours are held at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm Monday through Friday.

Tours include both of the Observatories and telescopes, including the Mitchel telescope—the oldest public telescope still in use in this hemisphere.

$5 per person.

Want to schedule a group up to 12? Sign Up Online. Call 513-321-5186 for more information.
New & Renewing Members!

Kenneth Leibee and Tara Alford
Kathy Marshalek and Bob Anderson
Andrew & Renee Arken
Elise and Lawson Bergeron
Louis and Pierre Bergeron
Daniel and Courtney Biegger
Gerald Black
John Blasing
Threasa Wesley and Geoffrey Bowling
Michael Brown
David E. Burcham
Mary Carrier
Joseph Carroll
William Y. Cartwright
Bruce and Cathy Cavitt
David and Tonya Chase
David and Deborah Chestnut
Robbin Coffman
David Colantonio
Bala Corattiyl
Bill Croskey
Lauren Croskey
Ben Richman and Laura Dailey
Sam and Donna Dalessandro
Tiffiny and David Dawson
Marsha and John DeWitt
Robert and Elizabeth Ehrsam
Kloeker Family
The Friedman Family
Bob and Mary Fitzpatrick
Orion Pape and Macy Fretz
Francesca Gear
Mel and Connie Gertz
Dylan and Aaron Gideon
Noah Glaser
Julie Glassmeyer
Julie and Keith Glover
Richard and Joy Guzna
Katie Hefele
Bryana and Eric Herzog
Aaron Sutherland and Nicole Hilvert
Stephanie Huber

Richard E. Hunter, Jr.
Nancy Hurst
Alexander Glaser and Stephanie Ikeda
Jo Ann and Kirk Kavanaugh
Susan Kellogg
Oliver Loyd and Renata Kenney
Karin and Mark Kinkelaar
Kathy Kirkwood
Judy Kluesener
David Kuhl
Samantha and Vince Lavagna
Brian and Christine Logue
Phil Smith and Holly Lytle
Lyn Marsteller and John Pinney
Keith Bookbinder and Maria Mason
John and Sharon McGraw
Kevin & Jenny McManus
Amy Miller
Robert and Sally Miller
John and Margaret Mitchell
Harry Moeller
Gregory Murray
Craig and Valerie Niemi
Timothy Obarski
W. Kevin Pape
Linda Parsons
Kylen Peck
Hannah and Ryan Phirman
Becky and Stan Regas
Mary Kay Rottner
Karen and Todd Rude
Leo Sack
Don Yelton and Ann Saluke
Amy Sampson
Matthew Schaefer
Bill and Karen Scheyer
James A Schroer
Phyllis and Richard Schueler
Hayes Shanesy
Kit Anderson and Steve Shanesy
Melanie Shepherd
Thad Hare and Jenn Siebel
Barbara and Michael Stough
Ashley Sutherland
Kathleen and Richard Takanen
Keith and Rebecca Taylor
Matt Titus

Ann & Mike Ullman
Lindsay Weber
Martha Wheeler
Sandra and Todd Witt
Cliff and Barbara Wittmeyer

Thanks to all our terrific members, donors and volunteers! We hope you will visit often in 2019!

New Member Benefits

With your membership, you become a Friend of the Observatory (FOTO) and join our family of amateur astronomers, history buffs, donors and volunteers.

FOTO meets on the Second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Observatory. All members and their guests are welcome to attend.

Your benefits include:
- Discounted or free admission to Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) programs
- Member’s only classes and programs
- Volunteer Training and Professional Development
- Loaner telescopes
- Free admission to Astro Thu/Fri/Saturdays
- Discounts in the Gift Shop
- Free admission to the historic landmark buildings and permanent collections.
- Use of the FOTO lending Library.
- One-year subscription to the monthly e-newsletter
• Members-Only Facebook Page
For more information, call the Observatory at 513-321-5186.

FOTO Committee Officers

Chair - Valerie Niemi
Vice Chair - John Blasing
Secretary - Michelle Gainey
Treasurer - Dr. Al Scheide
Member Representatives to the COC Board: Dave Bosse;
JoAnne Pedersen; Terry Endres

To contact an Officer or Rep email craig@cincinnatiobservatory.org and I’ll forward your contact information on to them.

Stargazing at Stonelick

Saturdays-January 5 & 12th

Bring the Family!

Need help with your telescope? Get expert tips setting it up and exploring the night sky. Stargazing begins at dusk. Open to all ages. Stargazes are weather permitting. “Like” Stonelick Stargazers for weather and holiday schedule updates.

January FOTO Meeting

Monday, January 14th
7:30-pm

By Tom East

Please join us at the Observatory on Monday, January 14th at 7:30 PM for a special presentation and book signing by Dr. Paul M. Sutter. The title of Dr. Sutter's presentation is "We need to talk about the death of the Universe". His presentation will be followed by a book signing for his new book - Your Place in the Universe.

Our universe changes every day. It was different in the past, and it will be different in the future. This is something we just learned about a hundred years ago, and we're still wrestling with the implications. Including, but not limited to, the fact that someday no more stars will shine.

Paul M. Sutter is the cosmological researcher and community outreach coordinator for the Department of Astronomy at The Ohio State University. He is also the chief scientist at the COSI Science Center (Center of Science and Industry). As a new, fresh voice in science communication, and an astrophysicist, writer, speaker, producer, and on-air host of podcasts and TV programs, Sutter strives to bring science to new audiences.

He is the creator of the Ask a Spaceman! podcast, a contributing editor to Space.com, and the founder of Active Galaxy Productions, a company that blends science with art in groundbreaking ways.

Sutter has authored over sixty academic papers on topics ranging from the earliest moments of the Big Bang, to the emptiest places in the universe, to novel methods for detecting the first stars. He has given over 100 seminars, colloquia, and conference talks at institutions around the world.

Romance at the Observatory

Wednesday, Feb. 14th
5-7 pm & 8-10 pm

The Heart Nebula.

For 2019 we again will be offering two chances at romance on the name night. Check the website and Facebook for updates and to register.

Borrow a Telescope!

By Dean Regas

As a member of the Observatory, you can borrow a scope though the Telescope Loan Program. For more info please call Dean at 513-321-5186.
Everything in Astronomy, every object that we might discuss can be said to be far away. Some objects really far away. Others really, really far away. Even the moon, our closest astronomical friend, a mere 240,000 miles away, would take us 5 months of driving at expressway speeds to get there (let’s do it in shifts). Other “close” friends would take ridiculous amounts of time to drive, or fly, or rocket to their locations. These distances are “astronomical,” “really astronomical,” or “really, really astronomical.” Yet we know the distances to most objects in the Universe, or at least classes of distances: kilo-parsecs, mega-parsecs, giga-parsecs! Something a little better than really, really far.

This first A2Z+ class of 2019 will cover how we know how far. Twenty-eight different techniques are currently used and we might get to all of them. Some of them are simple, some are just plain weird, some of them are really novel in their approach.

The A2Z+ Astronomy class meets the third Sunday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the West Wing of the Herget Building (January 20th, 7:00 P.M.). Discussions cover contemporary Astronomical topics as well as those historic. No pre-requisite knowledge of Math or Astronomy necessary. The group meets for about an hour or so and is free to any member of the Observatory.

Luminaria Night

Over 400 guests joined us for last month’s Luminaria event! The evening featured Knox Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir, holiday favorites from the Velocity Quartet, refreshments and stargazing through the 1904 Clark telescope. Shuttles took folks along luminary lit streets to and from Mt. Lookout Square for more festivities.

Thanks to all our volunteers and the Mt. Lookout Community Council for hosting a great night.

Amazon “Smiles” On the Observatory

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Cincinnati Observatory Center whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Next time you shop at Amazon simply start at http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1665954

Happy New Year to all our terrific Observatory staff, members, volunteers and donors!!

By every measure 2018 was another incredible year of serving the Greater Cincinnati community. Certainly the milestone of the year was celebrating the Cincinnati Observatory’s 175th anniversary.

We reach another milestone in 2019 - the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Cincinnati Observatory Center (COC) as a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Created in part to work with the University of Cincinnati on what were extensive repairs and renovations to the two historic buildings, telescopes and grounds. If you weren’t here 20 years ago you would not believe the amazing transformation. We’ll have to share and display some of the “before” pictures, so you can gain a deeper appreciation of what went into bringing the Observatory back to life.

The other charge to the new COC was to launch what would become some of the best STEM-based astronomy and space science programming in the region. A powerful mix of science and history for both K-12 students and the public that is as unique as the Observatory itself. In 1999 the Observatory served a total of about 1,500 visitors. In
2018 we inspired over 35,000 visitors and with the ever increasing interest in our programs we will reach that number again in 2019. Our continuing success is only possible thanks to everyone’s hard work, talents, dedication and financial support.

We hope you’ll visit often in this, our 20th year!

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**Community Rewards**

**Number for the Observatory**

After a quick and easy sign up online, every time you swipe your Kroger Plus Card a donation goes to support the Observatory’s mission. No cost to you; no loss of fuel points.

https://www.kroger.com/account/create

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**FOTO Planning Meeting**

**Thursday, January 24th 7pm.**

Help plan programs and events for your fellow members. Open to all.

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**Total Lunar Eclipse!**

**Sunday, Jan. 20 10pm-Midnight.**

The Sun, Earth, and Moon will align and give us a lunar eclipse on the night of January 20 and the Tri-state is in perfect position to see the whole thing.

The eclipse begins at 10:33pm when the shadow of the Earth first starts crossing the face of the Moon. Then at 11:41pm, the Moon will be totally in the Earth’s shadow and turn all sorts of colors. Will the Moon turn eerie gray, pumpkin orange, or blood red? You will have to see it for yourself!

The program runs only under clear skies – and will be canceled if cloudy.

**Admission:** $5/person.

No reservations required. For more information, please call 513-321-5186.

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**History Tours of the Observatory**

**2nd & 4th Sundays**

**January 13 & 27th**

Drop in between 1-4pm

2019 marks our 176th Year!

Stop by for the whole story or just the highlights. It’s all fascinating and connects our past with your today.

**$5 per person.**

**Free for members.**

Group tours by appointment.

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**Save-the-Dates**

**In Your 2019 Calendar!**

Jan 20, 2019 Total Lunar Eclipse
Feb 14 Valentine’s Night
Feb 19-20 SuperMoon
April 14 First Light Night

Calendars $10 each; 10 or more save 10%
Connect with Your Observatory

The Cincinnati Observatory Center
3489 Observatory Place
Cincinnati, OH 45208
513-321-5186

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